

Washington State Patrol Media Release

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Lojack™ Helps the Washington State Patrol and National Insurance Crime Bureau Recover Stolen Vehicles

On January 21, 2004, Washington State Patrol detectives from the Seattle and Tacoma Regional Auto Theft units teamed with National Insurance Crime Bureau investigators to recover 2 stolen vehicles and numerous parts in two separate locations in Kitsap and King Counties.

The recoveries were the result of the stolen vehicles being equipped with Lojack™ technology. Lojack™ is an anti-theft device which consists of a hidden transponder that enables law enforcement to track a reported stolen vehicle. State and local law enforcement have teamed with Lojack™ to recover over 38 vehicles over the past year in Washington State.

Officers from the WSP, Kitsap County Sheriff's Office, Tacoma Police Department, and National Insurance Crime Bureau tracked a stolen 1997 Acura Integra reported stolen in Port Orchard on January 21st to Kitsap County, which led to the serving of a search warrant at a residence on Glenwood Road. Detectives recovered the stolen Acura, stolen car parts, and multiple vehicles with Vehicle Identification Numbers removed. WSP detectives are continuing this investigation.

A 1999 Honda Civic Si reported stolen in Bellevue on January 21 was recovered in less than four hours in the Kent area by NICB and WSP personnel. The vehicle was found abandoned and partially stripped.

According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Washington State ranks fourth in the nation for auto theft per capita. During 2002, 40,493 vehicles were stolen, costing Washington State taxpayers over \$271 million.

The State Patrol is working to reduce auto theft. Toward that end, three auto theft units consisting of three detective sergeants and 14 detectives were organized in November 2002 and located in Seattle, Tacoma, and Spokane. In 2003, the WSP detectives arrested 132 people and recovered 430 vehicles valued at nearly \$ 4 million.

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